

1.
A R I A N I S M

FOUNDED UPON

SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS;

O R, *4103. 46. 79*
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Subscribing **A R I A N S,**

HERETICKS in PRINCIPLES

AND

ATHEISTS in PRACTICE.

IN A

D I A L O G U E

BETWIXT

A GENTLEMAN,

AND THE

MINISTER of his PARISH.

L O N D O N:

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ARLANISM

FOUNDED UPON

SPIRITUAL BONDAGE

THE

ARLANISM

RELIGION

AND

THE



ARLANISM

THE

ARLANISM

AND THE

MINISTERS OF THE ARLANISM

LONDON

THE

ARLANISM



A
DIALOGUE, &c.

GENTLEMAN.

I Am very glad to see you again,
after your long absence. I don't
doubt but your Journey was
upon a good occasion.

MINISTER.

I went into the Country some time since,
with a charitable Intent, to cure some of

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my Countrymen of the Plague, that had broken out amongst them, and carried off great numbers.

GENTLEMAN.

I did not know, that the Plague was in England: that is dreadful news indeed!

MINISTER.

I don't mean a bodily Plague, but a dangerous Distemper in the Mind, viz. the Plague of Arianism, which naturally tends to the destruction both of Soul and Body. This is what I mean.

GENTLEMAN.

This is still worse, if Arianism be of such destructive nature as you mention. Pray, what do you mean by an Arian?

MINISTER.

An Arian is one, that, contrary to the words of Baptism and plain Doctrine of the holy Scripture, denies the Divinity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

GENTLE-

GENTLEMAN.

A man, that denies the Divinity of the Saviour of men, must (without doubt) be spiritually blind, because if Christ was not God, I don't see how He could be our Saviour.

The Scripture tells us, that in the first Adam all die: Now, after a Man's body is dead and turned into corruption, it seems impossible to me for any one to quicken this dead body, and raise it up into a living state again, except God only; and therefore the Arians, and all, who deny the Divinity of Christ, must be spiritually blind, and quite ignorant of the revealed Way of Salvation.

MINISTER.

God created man upright, (as Reason and Revelation testify) but by sin, he lost the enjoyment of God spiritually, and became liable to death bodily; so that in the salvation of a man, two things are implied,

1st, The Pardon and the Renewal of the defiled soul. And 2dly, The Resurrec-

tion and glorification of the dead body. But will it not be the utmost degree of presumption to say, any one can do this, except God only?

GENTLEMAN.

It certainly will. But I think, it plainly appears in the scriptures, that Christ has power to purify and pardon defiled souls, and to raise and glorify dead bodies.

MINISTER.

It does. "I am, (saith Christ) the Resurrection and the Life: he that believeth in me, tho' he were dead, yet shall he live, &c." So, that Christ has power in himself to quicken and give spiritual life to the soul, and to raise the dead body into a glorious and incorruptible body. This He could not do, unless He was a Divine Person.

GENTLEMAN.

Have all christians, eminent for piety, integrity and heavenly minds, believed the Doctrine of the Trinity?

MINISTER.

MINISTER.

All without exception, even from the Apostles; but at the same time, it is to be considered, that spiritual things can be discerned only by the light of the Spirit, and that men in their natural and unregenerate state, (though otherwise never so learned) discern nothing of them. This is the case of Arians, and of all men in their unregenerated and natural state.

GENTLEMAN.

What does Arianism spring from, or how comes any one to embrace and promote such a dangerous error?

MINISTER.

Arianism arises from spiritual blindness, and want of humility.

The maintainers of this Heresy are so far from rightly distinguishing betwixt material and spiritual things, or having any just notions of spiritual things, that they don't know how fallen man is saved, or how he can be happy without his body;
and

and from this spiritual blindness, and a good share (as several of them have) of outward knowledge that puffeth up, Satan kindles up in their imagination, a deceitful persuasion, that they are wiser and more knowing than the whole Church, and see deeper and clearer into the Mysteries of Religion, than all the Saints, Martyrs and Confessors, that went before them : And from this vain and imaginary persuasion of their knowing more than others, (when in reality they know nothing of spiritual things) Satan leads them to deny the Divinity of Christ, and so reject the faith that was once delivered to the Saints in the Form of Baptism, delivered by Christ himself. *Matt. xxviii. 19.*

This is the way that Satan has taken with Hereticks in all ages. He first puffs them up with high conceits of their own light and abilities, and then frequently sets them up (under the pretence of reformation) to alter the Christian faith, and model the Christian worship to his own advantage ; which is to render both useless.

And

And to do this more effectually, he obliges these Agents of his to put on the mask of humility, and great pretences to sanctity.

But true Christians, who are not ignorant of Satan's devices, are not to be led astray by such wiles and crafty pretences. No; all enlightened Christians adhere firmly to the faith delivered by the Apostles to the Saints, and contend for it. They likewise reject all Liturgies composed by private and enthusiastic men. They likewise chuse rather to adhere firmly to the established Liturgy, composed by Saints and Martyrs, than to follow the novel inventions of Hereticks, Enthusiasts, or any other Agents of the Pope and Jesuits.

GENTLEMAN.

Give me leave to ask you one question. As all true Christians are baptized in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, that is, into the Faith, Service and Worship of the Holy Trinity, the one true God; Do not all, who deny the Divinity of Christ,
renounce

renounce thereby their Baptism, and deny the Faith, and become worse than Infidels?

MINISTER.

By the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, mentioned in the Form of Baptism, can't be meant three Gods, because such a meaning is contrary both to Reason and Revelation: Neither can they be taken for one God and two Creatures, because such an acceptance is equally absurd; and therefore they must imply three Persons in the one Godhead; and I can't see how any can be looked upon as good Christians that deny it.

GENTLEMAN.

St Peter tells us, Acts iv. 12. *That there is no other Name under Heaven given among Men, whereby we must be saved, but only the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Must not the Arians then, who reject Christ (as God and Saviour) and trust to their own righteousness, be in a very dangerous way, with respect to a future state?

MINI-

MINISTER.

As Christ only, considered as God and Man, can be our Saviour, their rejecting the merits of Christ, and trusting to their own righteousness, must be strange presumption, or rather diabolical infatuation.

GENTLEMAN.

Are there no officiating Ministers of the Church of England, of the Arian persuasion?

MINISTER.

I hope not, because, if there be any, they must be the worst of men.

GENTLEMAN.

Why must they be the worst of men.

MINISTER.

Pray, what opinion should you have of a man, that would readily at any time take a false Oath for a little money?

GEN-

GENTLEMAN.

I should look upon him, as one of the vilest of men, and in a dreadful state, both with respect to this and the next world.

MINISTER.

What then can you think of a Man, that subscribed to the Truth of the Doctrine of the Holy Trinity, gave his assent to all things contained in the Common Prayer, called upon the Trinity, three Persons and one God, to have mercy upon him; and soon after (during the publick service) received the holy Sacrament, and at the same time did not believe what he subscribed or had publickly attended to?

GENTLEMAN.

I hope there is no such man in England; if there is, he must in his heart be an Atheist, or else, I think, he should be afraid that the Church would fall upon his head, every time he went into it, thus to dishonour his Maker.

Ananias

Ananias and Saphira were struck dead for lying to the Holy Ghost. *Acts* v. And does not an Arian Minister, who reads the publick Service in God's own House, with guile and hypocrisy in his heart, act in the very same presumptuous and profane manner they did?

MINISTER.

Why truly a Clergyman that denies the Doctrine of the Trinity, and yet for lucre sake reads the Litany, and soon after (with this deceit in his heart) receives the holy Sacrament, must be a finner too great to be described, dangerous to be conversed with, and almost incapable of being converted.

GENTLEMAN.

It can't be proper then (I think) for any true Christian Layman to join in publick worship with an Arian Clergyman.

MINISTER.

When St John heard, that the Heretick Cerinthus was at the Bath at Ephesus, he exhorted his friends to avoid going to

a place where so great an enemy of Christ was, lest the Bath should fall upon their heads. By this St John thought it dangerous, even to go into an Heretick's company. But must it not be still more dangerous, not only to go into the company of an Arian Heretick, but even to attend him, while he is offering up a deceitful and hypocritical sacrifice in God's House? Surely, if such a thing can be well avoided, it ought.

GENTLEMAN.

You seem to have a very bad opinion of Subscribing Arians.

MINISTER.

I can't but look upon such deceitful and hypocritical Arians, as will subscribe for lucre sake to the truth of a Doctrine they don't believe; to be Hereticks in principles, and Atheists in practice: Because, I think, no man who has the fear of the Living and True God before his eyes, can act the deceitful Part they do; and consequently, that men ought to be as much upon their guard against the spiritual

tual Plague they are infected with, as they are against the bodily Plague:

GENTLEMAN.

There is without doubt an infinite difference betwixt true Christians and Arians.

MINISTER.

True Christians are living Members of Christ, and by virtue thereof have an enjoying union to God, the ever-living Principle of true good; and consequently have always a Paradise within, or a living fountain of true and endless joy.

But on the other hand, Subscribing Arians have minds so darkened by heresy, hypocrisy and guile, that heavenly pleasures can't enter or penetrate them. They can't so much as discern spiritual things, much less enjoy them.

And indeed, till these sins of craft, self-conceit and hypocrisy be purged out of their minds, it is impossible for them to be

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any way affected with the great mysteries of the Gospel.

GENTLEMAN.

Dr Foster tells us, that where Mystery begins, there Religion ends.

MINISTER.

But St Paul says, " Great is the mystery of Godliness : God was manifest in the flesh, &c." 1 *Tim.* iii. 16. And none can say otherwise, but by the suggestion of the Devil, who so far blinds the minds of the Arian Subscribers, that they have no right knowledge of the revealed way of Salvation, or how fallen Man can be happy without his body ; and consequently, must be highly unfit to have the Care of Souls committed to them.

GENTLEMAN.

Will you allow any Arians to be men of learning or knowledge ?

MINI-

MINISTER.

Yes, several of them are very knowing and learned Men in Natural Philosophy, Mathematicks, History, Chronology, and in Languages; and so have a great deal of outward and worldly Knowledge, that puffeth up; but at the same time, if they have no spiritual and saving knowledge in them, they will at last die fools; for after all, it is not great Parts and much worldly or outward Knowledge that fits men for heavenly happiness, but Faith and sincere Holiness or heavenly Light, and Purity in the mind. Worldly knowledge may be of great advantage in worldly affairs, but nothing but heavenly Knowledge can shew the way to Heaven; and therefore, all who reject that Light (however highly they may think of themselves) walk in darkness, and in the way that leads to Hell.

GENTLEMAN.

Give me leave to ask one question more, and then I have done. Suppose an Arian

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Clergy-

Clergyman had no objection against the thirty-nine Articles, or the Liturgy of the established Church, when he (at first) was ordained, but upon a further search into the holy Scriptures, and a constant use of the publick Service, his Arian Principles have taken place in him; what is he to do in this case?

MINISTER.

Reading the holy scriptures, and publick Prayers, are ordinances of Grace, and designed by God to enlighten the mind, purify the heart, and raise the affections unto God and things above.

But where men (instead of rising up into the heavenly Life by these means) sink lower into spiritual darknes, and thereby abuse the means of their recovery, their case is very deplorable, and oft ends in final impenitency.

GENTLEMAN.

The question I designed to ask you was,
What must a Minister of a Parish do, that
has

has been infected with the spiritual Plague of Arianism, since he took his living: What remedy is there for such a Man?

MINISTER.

There is no remedy but one, and that consists in denying himself and following Christ, as one "in whom dwelleth the fulness of the Godhead bodily." Col. ii. 9. If he does this as the Christian faith requires, he will repent and live; but if he denies Christ, there is no other name under Heaven by which he can be saved.

I shall now conclude in the words of St John, 1 Epist. v. 11, 12. *This is the record that God hath given unto us eternal Life: And this Life is in his Son *. He that*
bath

* To say the Word or Son of God is not of a Divine Nature, is a contradiction in terms and blasphemy. To say the Divine Word or Son of God is not a Divine Person, is likewise a contradiction in terms and blasphemy.

*bath the Son bath Life; and he that bath
not the Son of God, bath not Life; but the
wrath of God abideth on him. John iii.
36.*

F I N I S.

